

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT, US

SUBJECT: LA STAMPA ACCUSES AMBASSADOR MARTIN OF FUNDING SID CHIEF
MICELI AND FAR RIGHT JOURNALIST RAUTI

SUMMARY. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) TODAY'S LA STAMPA FEATURED
ARTICLE BY ZUCCONI FROM WASHINGTON ENTITLED "US EMBASSY
ROME PAID 500 MILLION LIRE TO MICELI AND RAUTI IN 1970."
LA STAMPA CERTIFIES THAT THIS MATERIAL IS NOT BASED ON RUMOR
BUT RATHER ON BLACK AND WHITE OF THE PIKE REPORT. WHILE
NAMES WERE OMITTED FROM PIKE REPORT, LA STAMPA ASSERTED
THAT IT WAS VERY EASY TO FILL IN THE BLANKS AND THEN
PROCEEDED TO DO SO. SYNOPSIS OF ARTICLE AND EMBASSY COM-
MENTS FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SUBHEADLINES QUESTION WHETHER THE MONEY WAS MEANT
TO FINANCE A COUP FROM THE RIGHT? THEY ALSO INDICATE THAT
THE CIA VAINLY OPPOSED THE MARTIN PLAN WHICH HAD ALSO BEEN
APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE OVER WHICH KISSINGER PRESIDED.
ACCORDING TO LA STAMPA THE OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF THE DOLS
800,000 PAID TO MICELI WAS TO FINANCE A MASSIVE PROPAGANDA
EFFORT VIA ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS. THE THEN CIA STATION CHIEF
OBJECTED TO THE PLAN ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE MONEY WOULD
BE WASTED SINCE NEITHER MICELI NOR THE SID HAD EXPERIENCE
OR TRAINING IN POLITICAL PROPAGANDA, AND BECAUSE MICELI
WAS "CLEARLY LINKED TO ANTIDEMOCRATIC FORCES OF THE EX-
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TREME RIGHT."

2. CITING THE PIKE REPORT THE ARTICLE EXTRACTS FROM TELEGRAMS PURPORTEDLY TRANSMITTED BETWEEN THE "STATION CHIEF" IN ROME AND HIS HEADQUARTERS AND BETWEEN CIA HEADQUARTERS AND AMBASSADOR MARTIN. THESE MESSAGES WERE DATED 8, 10, AND 11 FEBRUARY 1970. TELEGRAM OF 11 FEBRUARY IS TO HAVE DESCRIBED A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN AMBASSADOR MARTIN AND THE CHIEF OF STATION DURING WHICH AMBASSADOR MARTIN THREATENED TO PUT THE STATION CHIEF ON THE NEXT PLANE BACK TO WASHINGTON IF HE CONTINUED TO OPPOSE THE PLAN. ANOTHER TELEGRAM OF THE SAME DAY FROM CIA HEADQUARTERS TO AMBASSADOR MARTIN CONCLUDED WITH STATEMENT THAT "NONE EVER DOUBTED THAT THE AMBASSADOR RECEIVED AUTHORITY (FOR THE PLAN) FROM THE FORTY COMMITTEE." SOME TELEGRAM, HOWEVER, RAISED GRAVE DOUBTS ABOUT MICELI'S ABILITY TO SPEND THE MONEY AND WORRIED ABOUT WHAT HE MIGHT DO WITH ANY FUNDS HE DID NOT SPEND ON "JOURNALISTS." CIA HEADQUARTERS ADVISED THAT THIS WAS A POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE PROGRAM WHICH SHOULD BE KEPT UNDER CONSTANT OBSERVATION.

3. A TELEGRAM OF 28 FEBRUARY 1970 FROM ROME CHIEF OF STATION STATED THAT "THE AMBASSADOR MADE CLEARLY KNOWN HIS INTENT TO NOT ASK TOO MANY DETAILS FROM THE RECIPIENTS OF THE FUNDS, NOR TO IMPOSE ANY CONDITIONS, IN ANY WAY, ON THE USE OF THE FUNDS." THE AMBASSADOR WAS OF THE BELIEF THAT MICELI WOULD KEEP (THEM) VOLUNTARILY INFORMED CONCERNING ANY DEVELOPMENTS.

4. LA STAMPA CONCLUDES THAT "THIS EPISODE SEEMS TO THROW A FAVORABLE LIGHT ON THE CIA WHICH, APART FROM ANY MORAL CONSIDERATION, SEEMS TO HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE POLITICAL STUPIDITY OF THE OPERATION"; AND FEARED--READING BETWEEN THE LINES--THAT THE MONEY COULD BE USED TO SUPPORT A RIGHTIST COUP. FOR LA STAMPA THIS EPISODE IS FAR WORSE THAN PREVIOUS ALLEGATIONS THAT THE CIA FINANCED POLITICIANS TO CONTINUE IN CERTAIN POLITICAL PATHS, SINCE HERE THE US WAS CLEARLY SUPPORTING ILLEGAL OPERATIONS LINKED TO EXTRA-CONSTITUTIONAL AND ILLEGAL GROUPS." MARTIN MUST HAVE KNOWN HE WAS ACTING COMPLETELY OUTSIDE THE LAW." (END UNCLASSIFIED) CONFIDENTIAL

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5. COMMENT: (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL) THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE ALLEGATIONS IN THIS STORY OF USG INVOLVEMENT IN RIGHT WING FASCIST REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES WILL BE VERY DAMAGING TO US INTERESTS IN ITALY. DURING THE COURSE OF THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, REFLECTING GROWING INFLUENCE OF THE LEFT, MANY LEADING ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS AND WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINES HAVE CREATED A FASCIST "BOGEYMAN" AND HAVE

TRIED TO LINK THE USG WITH IT BY REPEATING A
STRING OF FANTASTIC ACCUSATIONS AGAINST US.
THE IMAGINED PURPOSE OF THE NEFARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF WHICH WE
ARE ACCUSED HAS BEEN TO CREATE A SITUATION SO FULL OF TENSION
AND DANGER THAT THE ITALIAN PEOPLE WOULD EVENTUALLY ACCEPT A
RETURN TO FASCIST ORDER.

BY LINKING AMBASSADOR MARTIN AND THE EMBASSY TO
MICELI AND RAUTI, THIS "REVELATION" WILL CONVINCE MANY THAT
THE USG WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE RIGHT-WING BORGHESE COUP
ATTEMPT FOR WHICH MICELI IS PRESENTLY UNDER INDICTMENT. THIS STORY
WILL BE READ, WE FEAR, AS A CONFIRMATION OF ALL THE
POLITICAL FANTASIES OF THE MEDIA AND, AS A RESULT, THE
US WILL BE ENDLESSLY LINKED TO THE DISCREDITED FASCIST
RIGHT. THEREFORE, FROM WHAT WE KNOW OF THE PIKE REPORT,
THIS SECTION ON MONEY FOR MICELI WILL PROBABLY BE THE
MOST DAMAGING TO US INTERESTS. END COMMENT. VOLPE

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